GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2754
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Rural Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Rural Entrepreneurship Development Scheme and if so, whether the said scheme has been made effective presently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives of the said Scheme;

(c) the amount of scholarship given to each agriculture graduate student under the said scheme;

(d) whether the Government has also hiked recently various scholarships given for agricultural courses and if so, the details thereof, course-wise;

(e) the number of agricultural universities functioning in the country at present, State/UT-wise; and

(f) the various steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of agricultural education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under its XII Plan Scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India" has initiated a programme of 'Student READY' (Rural Entrepreneurship and Awareness Yojana). The programme aims to provide entrepreneurship awareness, practical experience in real − life situation in rural agriculture and creating awareness among undergraduate students for initiating a better career in agriculture sector.

The programme is being implemented from academic session 2016-17.

(c) Each student is entitled for stipend of Rs. 3000/- per month for maximum of six months during the Student READY programme.

(d) The National Talent Scholarship (NTS) given to the students admitted through All India Entrance Exam, in the agricultural Universities outside their state of domicile has been hiked to Rs. 2000/- month for the UG students from the existing 1000/- month for the duration of the study and NTS for the PG students (new initiative) taking admission through AIEEA-PG in the agricultural universities outside their state of domicile has been initiated @Rs. 3000/- month for the duration of the course.

A notification of the revised rates of fellowship/scholarship for ICAR-SRF (PGS) and Institute scholarship of ICAR Deemed-to-be Universities for pursuing Ph.D. has been issued vide Council's O.M. No. Edn/6-12/2007-A&P dated 03.02.2015 (Details enclosed) (Annexure − I).

(e) At present there are 73 Agricultural Universities (AUs) including 05 Deemed-to-be universities, 02 Central Agricultural Universities, 04 Central Universities with agriculture faculty. The State/UT −wise list of AUs is annexed (Annexure II).

(f) (i) Accreditation of agricultural universities is being done to ensure the minimum standards of Agricultural Education in agricultural universities.

(ii) For maintaining and upgrading quality and relevance of higher agricultural education, a centrally sponsored plan scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India", is being implemented. The scheme strives to plan, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate agricultural education in the country with an aim to enhance the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education to address the emerging challenges in the agriculture sector. Limited financial support is provided to agricultural universities (AUs), for strengthening of infrastructure pertaining to student amenities, learning resources strengthening of curriculum delivery, holistic development of students, capacity building of faculty, Niche Area of Excellence, Experiential Learning modules for skill development, Rural Agricultural Work Experience, as well as various other facilities by providing development grant, revision of course curricula as per changing needs.

(iii) Netaji Subhash International fellowship is provided for international exposure to faculty and students.

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